

Liz and Sergio Vilela

Every ending is always a new beginning!

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Dear friends, we are writing this having already left Mozambique, but with so many fond and lasting memories. I, and we would like to share a bit of this with you. Every farewell is like the end, but we can see it as a new beginning, or the end of a season and the beginning of a new one, with all its challenges and possibilities. Fear sometimes prevents us from reaching the best opportunities we can have in life, but in 1 John 4: 18, it says that true love casts out all fear, and this is a truth and statement that we must never forget but keep in our hearts, our heart as an anchor. Leaving Mozambique was not easy, perhaps we will feel this over the months and years, but we understand that we heard the voice of God, and this is a time to be in the UK, and I, Sergio, believe it will be a time to re-establish connections and bless the Church of Christ in England. We don't know how, but we know why... Because God is love, and He loves England and its people.

What is even better and fills me, Liz, with hope and gratification, is knowing that the trauma course that I started hasn't finished. Three of the people that did the course with me are now leading the course, in two churches. God was preparing them to be the leaders and they know how much this course is needed. I am still in touch with them, helping them where necessary, but it brings me great joy to know that what we started is carrying on... because it is God's work!!

Our time in Mozambique has come to an end. It's been an adventurous nine years. As we look back, we think of all the training sessions we have done, the relationships we have made, the visits around the city but also around the country, the conversations, the play, the laughs and the tears. Mozambique has really left a mark on our hearts, where God has moulded us and guided us, and we return to the UK as changed people. The last few months involved several farewells, where we really felt appreciated for our contribution to God's work in Beira in schools, pre-schools, institutes and churches.



We had a farewell party in June combined with Liz's birthday. A time to celebrate and give thanks for all our friends who were our family while we were there.



Thank you

We meet dear brothers and sisters who always ask us about our requests or prayer points, we always have a few, but in the last few years a word that I learned in Latin and I really like it is "Gratitude". Gratitude comes from the Latin word *gratus*, which means "**thankful, pleasing.**" When you feel gratitude, you're pleased by what someone did for you and also pleased by the results. We are grateful to God and to you, for being the voice and hands of the Lord and blessing us either with prayer or actions.

Changes are opportunities

Don't be afraid to change course or change directions. The changes we make sometimes are all we need for new doors to open on our horizon. The "fashionable" word is "resilience", but it best describes the period of changes, often troubled, and which brings with it strength and focus. Resilience is not fashion, it is having the elasticity to adapt to changes, and every change takes us out of the status quo and this creates opportunities.

Blessings,

Sergio, Liz, Chloe & Joshua



There is
Always
SOMETHING
TO BE
Thankful
FOR

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